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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE

RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 8136

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 068518

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ATRN](#) [AMGT](#) [AFIN](#) [KSEP](#)

SUBJECT: Travel and Transportation Guidance for Same-Sex  
Domestic Partners

REFERENCE: 09 State 066740

¶1. Effective June 26, 2009, the Department of State extended transfer entitlements to same-sex domestic partners and their children. Travel authorizations (TA) that include same-sex domestic partners and other Eligible Family Members (EFMs) will allow for transportation entitlements that include travel and shipment of unaccompanied air baggage (UAB). This cable provides travel and transportation guidance for managing the transition to the new policy. It is important to note that to obtain these benefits for your same-sex domestic partner, the first step is to file the affidavit of eligibility for benefits and obligations (see reftel).

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Airline Tickets  
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¶2. You should submit a copy of your TA to your Travel Management Center (TMC) for purchasing an airline ticket for your same-sex domestic partner and other EFMs. If your same-sex domestic partner and other EFMs were not included on the order at the time it was issued, you must have the TA amended before tickets can be issued against it. If you purchased tickets with personal funds, and travel commenced on or after June 26, 2009, then you may request reimbursement up to the amount that would have been paid by the Department providing the ticket was purchased in accordance with the provisions of the Fly America Act (14 FAM 545.2). Tickets purchased with travel performed prior to June 26, 2009 - the effective date of the new policy - are not reimbursable.

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Unaccompanied Air Baggage  
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¶3. Your same-sex domestic partner, as an EFM, is entitled to 200 pounds of unaccompanied air baggage, as per 14 FAM 613.3-

¶1.  
If you shipped UAB for your same-sex domestic partner using personal funds prior to June 26, 2009, you will not be reimbursed. If your UAB shipped on or after the effective date, but prior to your orders being amended, you may request reimbursement for the cost up to the weight entitlements. If you ship your family's UAB using your amended travel order, the shipping services will be purchased by the Transportation Division and reimbursements should not be necessary.

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Consumables, Household Effects and POVs  
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¶4. Entitlements for shipments of consumables, household effects, and personally owned vehicles are not affected by this change in policy as those entitlements are the same regardless of the number of EFMs on your orders.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
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The following FAQs are provided as guidance:

¶5. Q: My same-sex domestic partner is already with me at post and my travel authorization is still valid because I have not been at post more than one year. Once I have my travel order amended to add my same-sex domestic partner, can I then ship 200 pounds of UAB for my partner?

A: No. Your same-sex domestic partner is already at post with you and the intent of the UAB is to provide items needed while enroute and immediately upon arrival. See 14 FAM 613.3-1(c). Your same-sex domestic partner will, however, be authorized shipment of 200 pounds of UAB from your current post to your next assignment when s/he is included on your Travel Authorization.

¶6. Q: My same-sex domestic partner has items in a house in the U.S. that I would like placed into storage. Can I do that?

A: Yes. When you have your travel order amended to indicate that you have acquired a same-sex domestic partner, the items may be placed in storage under your travel order, provided you have a sufficient amount of HHE weight entitlement remaining. For example, if you are at a limited shipment (7,200 lbs.) post and have already utilized 4,000 lbs. of that allowance,

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you can ship up to the remaining 3,200 lbs. The shipment may be sent to post and/or to storage.

¶7. Q: I already booked the flight for my same-sex domestic partner and paid for the ticket in anticipation of my upcoming transfer. Will I be reimbursed for the cost of the ticket?

A: It depends upon the date of travel. If the travel did not occur prior to June 26, 2009, the effective date of the change in entitlements, you may submit a request for the use of personal funds to purchase an official ticket, to the Chief of Transportation (Edward J. Brennan), along with your amended travel order. He will review the expenditures and authorize the use of the personal funds up to what the USG would have paid and you may then request reimbursement on your travel voucher. Important Note: The ticket must have been purchased in accordance with the Fly America Act (see 14 FAM 581.4). Travel commencing before the effective date is not reimbursable.

¶8. Please send your questions regarding travel and transportation issues related to this policy to [Transportationquery@State.gov](mailto:Transportationquery@State.gov).

¶9. Minimized considered.  
CLINTON